

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are pending in the application. Claims 1-35 currently stand rejected. Claims 17, 34, and 35 have been amended to correct typographical errors. The Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the following remarks and allowance of claims 1-35.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejections

Claims 1-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent # 6,959,077 B1 to Calhoun et al. (hereinafter “Calhoun”). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites, in part, in response to the occurrence of a predetermined event, programming a local copy of a local number portability database to direct communications for at least one phone number to a second switch.

In contrast, Calhoun discloses a service control point 26 comprising a subscriber records database 30 including entries of directory numbers associated with called party lines accorded special treatment such as redirection services. (See Calhoun, column 5, lines 59-63.) When a cable fault is detected, the service control point traverses this database and provides the service switching point 12b with the appropriate instructions to route the communication pursuant to the subscriber’s pre-selected redirection scheme. (See Calhoun, column 6, lines 9-17.)

Calhoun’s service control point *reads* a database for instructions on routing the communication, while in the Applicant’s claim 1, the local number portability database is *programmed* in response to the occurrence of the predetermined event. Notice that Calhoun’s database is programmed in *advance* of the cable fault, while in claim 1, the database is programmed in *response* to the occurrence of the event.

Further, the database in claim 1 is a local number portability database. Calhoun does not disclose a local number portability database, but instead discloses a subscriber records database. The subscriber records database disclosed by Calhoun includes entries of directory numbers corresponding to various subscribers, and data concerning which services are available to the various subscribers within a single telecommunications company. The subscriber records database from Calhoun is not equivalent to a local

number portability database. Further, it is not programmed in response to the occurrence of the predetermined event, but is read in response to the event. Since Calhoun does not disclose programming a local copy of a local number portability database in response to the occurrence of the predetermined event, Calhoun cannot anticipate claim 1.

Based on the foregoing comments, the Applicant contends that claim 1 is allowable in view of the cited references, and such indication is respectfully requested. Claim 19 was rejected for similar reasons as claim 1. Claim 19 contains limitations similar to claim 1 and is therefore allowable over the art of record for the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 2-18 depend from independent claim 1, and claims 20-35 depend from independent claim 19, thus incorporating the limitations of their corresponding independent claims. Therefore, the Applicant asserts that claims 2-18 and 20-35 are allowable for at least the reasons given above in support of independent claims 1 and 19, and such indication is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above remarks, the Applicant submits that the claims in their present form are allowable. Additional reasons in support of patentability exist, but such reasons are omitted in the interests of clarity and brevity. The Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the claims.

The Applicant believes no fees are due with respect to this filing. However, should the Office determine fees are necessary, the Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 210765.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 02/25/2008

/Leslie P. Gehman/

SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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